



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Preliminary figures show an increase of 130 percent in this year's catch of Alaska herring over the catch of 1942—one of the most impressive increases registered this year by any major American fishery—Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes announced today.

According to reports from Alaska, fishermen in the season just over took 84,323,250 pounds of herring as against last year's catch of 36,602,250 pounds.

While a small amount of the Alaska herring catch is cured for food, by far the largest portion is reduced into fish meal and oil. This year 6,330 tons of meal were produced, compared with 2,871 tons in 1942. Production of oil was 1,644,142 gallons, compared with 829,230 last year. The meal goes into poultry and other animal feeds of which it is an important constituent, and the oil is used chiefly in the leather trades and the manufacture of cutting oils.

Only 722 tons of this year's catch were cured for food, as against 3,129. Herring is also used for bait for other fish, particularly halibut, and 3,250 tons were so used this year, compared with 3,691 in 1942.